

NBCC

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER COALITION

grassroots advocacy in action

March 17, 2004

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Breast Cancer Coalition (NBCC) urging you to oppose any cuts to the Medicaid program. We are particularly concerned that the fiscal year 2005 budget assumes that the Energy and Commerce Committee will cut Medicaid by \$2.2 billion over the next five years. The top legislative priority for NBCC is ensuring access to quality health care for all. We are concerned that cuts to Medicaid will **increase** the number of uninsured individuals in our country at time when we should be working together to **decrease** the number of uninsured.

Medicaid provides health insurance to America's most vulnerable seniors, children, pregnant women, working families, and people with disabilities. In 2000, Congress created the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program, which provides an optional enhanced match for states that provide full Medicaid coverage for women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through a special CDC screening program. To date 49 states have opted in, and the final state not in the program, Oklahoma, is in the process of becoming the 50th state to offer this important Medicaid option to patients who need care. This is an important option for all states – one that could be jeopardized by cuts in federal Medicaid funding.

The House budget resolution assumes \$2.2 billion in cuts to Medicaid. These cuts could cause severe reductions or even elimination of Medicaid services, including the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program. During a time when states are facing their own budget crises, they need more, not less, federal Medicaid funding.

The National Breast Cancer Coalition urges members of the House of Representatives to oppose any Medicaid cuts. We also ask you to oppose any cuts to Medicaid in the final budget resolution conference report adopted by Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Fran Visco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fran" and last name "Visco" clearly legible.

Fran Visco, JD
President